

MEMORANDUM

Information

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WASHINGTON

Thursday, August 1, 1968, 12:2 PM

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Czechoslovak Communique

The Soviet-Czech communique (at Tab A) has just been issued. In it, both parties speak of a broad comradely exchange of opinion and complete frankness, sincerity and mutual understanding. They also scheduled a meeting with the Poles, East Germans, Hungarians and Bulgarians in Bratislava this Saturday.

It seems pretty clear -- and this view is shared by the Intelligence Community -- that they have stepped one step back from the brink. However, we are moving on to the next chapter in a book which is far from finished.

The fact that the next meeting will be on Czech soil represents some concession to the Czech point of view. On the other hand, the Czechs will be facing a conclave of their critics -- which the Czechs had wanted to avoid by means of a series of bilateral meetings.

Tito is expected in Prague shortly.

Nathaniel Davis

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Attachment
a/s

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